

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249374

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, BF, US, UK

SUBJECT:BAHAMAS BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REFERENCE: STATE 239800

1. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED DEPT. WITH COPIES OF POSITION PAPER FOR USE IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND OF AIDE-MEMOIRE GIVEN GCOB IN 1973. TEXTS ARE TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF POSITION PAPER.

QUOTE

BAHAMAS DEFENCE TALKS

BRITISH POSITION

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NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BAHAMANS WILL START ON THE BASIS

OF THE ORIGINAL OFFER OF POUNDS 3.5 MILLION AID TO THE POLICE MARINE DIVISION. ANY ADDITIONAL OFFER WOULD REQUIRE REFERENCE BACK TO MINISTERS. WITHIN THE CEILING OF POUNDS 3.5 MILLION THE CONTENT OF THE PACKAGE COULD BE VARIED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF BAHAMIAN WISHES.

THE REST OF THE PACKAGE WOULD BE LARGELY IN TERMS OF THE ATTACHED AIDE-MEMOIRE (GIVEN TO THE BAHAMANS IN 1973) EXCEPT THAT USE OF NO. 1 JRS FACILITIES NO LONGER APPLIES, AS THE FACILITY HAS CLOSED DOWN.

THE CONCLUSION OF A BRITISH AGREEMENT WITH THE BAHAMANS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON A SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN NEGOTIATION (AND THE EXISTENCE OF SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE U.S. NAVY) AND IN PARTICULAR A SATISFACTORY CLAUSE COVERING THIRD PARTY USE OF U.S. FACILITIES IN THE U.S.-BAHAMAS AGREEMENT.

15 OCTOBER 1975
BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
END QUOTE.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE.

QUOTE

1. SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BEING REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BAHAMAS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF THE DEFENCE FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS, HMG IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING:

A. CONTINUATION OF THE PAYMENT OF POUNDS 150,000 PER ANNUN AS PART SERVICE OF THE ATLANTIC UNDERWATER TEST EVALUATION CENTRE (AUTEC) LOAN UNTIL 1988.

B. SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT, TO ABSOLVE THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT FROM ITS CONTINGENT LIABILITY TO REPAY TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE MONEY, APPROXIMATELY CONFIDENTIAL

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MATELY POUNDS 40,000, ADVANCED FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE EASTERN TEST RANGE AND LONG RANGE AID TO NAVIGATION (LORAN) STATION.

C. TO ASSIST THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF ITS POLICE MARINE DIVISION BY PROVIDING AS A FREE GIFT PART OF THE ASSISTANCE REQUESTED; I.E.: 1. 4X103 FOOT VOSPER FAST PATROL BOATS, 2. 4X60 FOOT VOSPER

PATROL CRAFT AT A TOTAL COST OF ABOUT POUNDS 3.5 MILLION
AT CURRENT PRICES SPREAD OVER 3-5 YEARS FROM FINANCIAL YEAR
1974-75.

D. TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FOR
THE TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF THE POLICE MARINE DIVISION.

E. TO UNDERTAKE HYDROGRAPHIC STUDIES IN BAHAMIAN
WATERS, AS MAY BE AGREED, AND TO MAKE THE RESULTS
AVAILABLE TO THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT.

F. TO PROVIDE CERTAIN ON SITE AND UK TRAINING OF
BAHAMIAN PERSONNEL IN HYDROGRAPHIC WORK.

G. TO RELEASE TO THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT THE RECENT
AERIAL SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ISLANDS AND, OVER A
PERIOD, TO MAKE FURTHER SURVEYS, AS MAY BE AGREED.

H. TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY THE BAHAMAS' NEEDS FOR
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FIELDS OTHER THAN POLICE TRAIN-
ING.

I. FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS TO
CONTINUE TO SAIL HM SHIPS FROM TIME TO TIME IN BAHAMIAN
WATERS, BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO DO MORE THAN WARN
INTRUDERS AND TO ADVISE THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT.

J. TO CONSIDER QUOTE WITH SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING
UNQUOTE THE BAHAMAS' VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA.

K. TO MAKE THE FACILITIES OF NO. 1 JRS AVAILABLE TO THE
BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT IN PARTICULAR AND AGREED CIRCUM-
STANCES.

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END QUOTE.
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